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MOBILIZING FARM LABOR.

What One County Is Doing by the
Power of Public Opinion
to Save Crops.

Washington, D. C.,
April 3, 1918.

In former communications from this office, stress has been laid upon the power of public opinion in the mobilization of men of farm experience in towns and cities adjacent to agricultural regions for farm work at periods of seasonal strain.

The point has been made that on account of war activities and industrial demand, there is not enough labor seeking employment to supply the farmers with their needs at certain times, and, therefore, in order to cultivate and harvest the crops now planting, it will be necessary for much man power to be spared from the towns and the cities.

Here is the way it is done in Kingfisher County, Oklahoma. Proper realization of community responsibility and proper exercise of public opinion will solve this problem.

Glenn D. Sney
Assistant Secretary
of Agriculture.

FOLLOW YOUR FLAG TO THE FURROWS.

MEN AND CITY BOYS! Put Your Brawn and Muscle Behind Uncle Sam by Helping Local Farmers Produce Food for the Fighters of Our Nation and the Allies.

HIGH-SCHOOL BOYS can render real war service by spending their coming vacations on the farms. Hard work—but beats any gymnasium in turning a boy into a husky man.

WOMEN! GIRLS! Help the farms harvest, grade, and pack fruit and berries and vegetables. Help the farm housewife in her important tasks.

WOMEN can relieve their men engaged in lighter tasks in office, store, or factory, so that their brawn and muscle can help farmers at critical seasons perform heavy work of getting a bumper food crop.

Helping a Farmer is Helping to Hold That Line in France.

HOMA FARMER

March 25, 1918.

Men of Towns Will Help Farm

Kingfisher County Has Drafted All Its Men and Will Call Them to Work in the Fields Whenever Needed

OWING TO THE acute labor shortage, warning is given that no foreign labor for harvest can be expected for Kingfisher county farmers and it therefore becomes necessary that a survey of available labor for assistance in the coming harvest be immediately made.

The council of defense has undertaken the task of making this survey and of providing the necessary extra farm labor during harvest, from the available men in the cities and towns of the county. It is neither expected nor proposed to supply the extra help from the idle men of the towns, but the business and professional man, the store clerk and men and boys whose services can be spared from any and

ing the harvest season, all male residents of the cities and towns of Kingfisher county, between the ages of 15 and 60 years, are drafted and will be expected to hold themselves in readiness to perform farm labor during harvest, unless they shall have been exempted under some of the following classifications:

1. Exemption will be allowed to:
1. Physicians.
2. Members federal draft board.
3. Mail carriers and necessary postal employees.
4. Necessary mechanics and repair men in shops and garages.
5. Railway and express company employees.
6. Employees of cities or towns, on certificate showing their necessity, by the executive officer of the city or town.
7. Necessary employees of ice plants, mills, elevators and wholesale distributors of oil and gas.
8. Necessary dray and transfer men.
9. Physical disability.
10. One man in each place of business, whose place cannot be supplied by women.
11. Other personal exemptions in cases of emergency, on showing to the local committee or draft board.

Registration cards will be provided and the local committees for the several towns and cities in the county, will during the month of March, provide for a complete registration of all men and boys, residents of the towns or cities in the county. After the cards have been signed, the local committee of the draft board will exempt all who are properly entitled to exemptions, and make lists of those not exempted, and this list will be published in the newspapers of the local town or city in order that the farmers and public in general may know the names of those available for the 10-day service during harvest.

From the posted and published lists of available men and boys, the farmers are requested to make their selections and also to make their contracts for service.

Lists of the available men for 10 days service on the farms during harvest will also be kept posted in the various banks of the county, and those farmers who have neglected to make their selections, may by phone, letter or otherwise, request their local bank to select harvest hands for them from the list of available men, who have not already been contracted for.

The wages will be fixed by the contracting parties, but it is suggested that the farmers pay the current harvest wages.

The committees for the various towns and cities, who are to make the farm labor survey of their towns and to secure the registration of the available men for the harvest employment, and also to pass on all exemption claims are as follows:

Hennessey: Floyd Felt, chairman; M. A. Mitchell; W. E. Gulker.
Cashlon: A. J. Garnett, chairman; S. W. Hogan; Melville Carter.
Dover: C. B. Sherwood, chairman; D. A. Northrup; G. W. Miller.
Kingfisher: E. D. Brownlee, chairman; F. Borelli; R. C. Shiflett.

By order of the county council of defense.

G. L. Bowman, Chairman.

Kingfisher county, Central Oklahoma, responded so promptly in the campaign for members of the Red Cross that it attracted much attention. The reason for this good work was found to be a form of organization extending to every school district, which is now being put into effect thruout the state. The county is now the first to develop the one plan which will most effectively supply labor to farmers when they must have it. It is the only answer, and a complete statement of this plan is printed here, so that other counties may take up the work and push it thru before it is too late.

all business enterprises, must respond to the call and furnish the greater part of this extra farm help. And to perform this task, the council of defense must have the loyal and patriotic support of every citizen. To assist in this matter is as much a patriotic duty, as to buy Liberty bonds or contribute to the Red Cross.

There is no law whereby one can be compelled to perform his part, but for those who cannot be reached thru their own sense of patriotism, there is a court of public opinion with great moral persuasive power, to whose tender mercies the farm labor slacker will be committed.

It is recognized that no rules can be made which will not be entitled to criticism, but the council of defense has adopted such rules and regulations as are deemed best adapted to accomplish the purpose, and it is hoped that the effort will meet with a hearty response and co-operation of all. If you have an idea that you believe would be of assistance in the work, the council of defense will welcome it for consideration; but if your ideas are not constructive, and merely for the purpose of destructive criticism, have the heart and conscience to suppress the idea for the good of the cause.

The general plan involves the appointment of an executive committee from the council of defense which is designated as the "county labor draft board" and is composed of E. D. Brownlee, chairman, F. Borelli, and R. C. Shiflett. This board is given full power to carry out the plans adopted by the council of defense, and to make the necessary subagent or committee appointments that may be deemed advisable.

For the purpose of performing at least 10 days service on the farm dur-

